

# **Washington Prospective Teacher Assessment System:**

## **2002-2003 Results**

**Submitted to:  
Governor Gary Locke  
Washington State Legislature  
State Board of Education  
Superintendent of Public Instruction**

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# **Washington Prospective Teacher Assessment System: 2002-2003 Results**

The Washington State Legislature, in creating the Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB), directed the PESB to establish a prospective teacher assessment system. This assessment system includes an assessment of basic skills in reading, mathematics and writing and an assessment of knowledge of subjects that will be taught. The timeline established by the law is for the basic skills test to be required of candidates beginning September 1, 2002 and the subject knowledge tests to be required for each teaching endorsement beginning September 1, 2005.

## **Washington Educator Skills Test – Basic (WEST-B)**

Under this mandate, the PESB established the Washington Educator Skills Test – Basic (WEST-B) as a requirement for admission to approved teacher preparation programs in Washington. The WEST-B is also required of persons from out of state seeking a Washington State residency teaching certificate.

Since September of 2001 the PESB has worked with the WEST-B contractor National Evaluation Systems, Inc. (NES) on the development and administration of this basic skills test of prospective teachers. The PESB closely supervises the development and implementation of the assessment program to ensure that it is in compliance with the legislative mandate, fully aligned with the Washington State policies and practices, and appropriate for verifying the basic skills knowledge of individuals seeking entry into the Washington State teaching force.

The WEST-B measures basic skills in reading, mathematics, and writing through three subtests. Test objectives were developed for each subtest to be consistent with the Washington Essential Academic Learning Requirements. The reading and mathematics subtests have 60 multiple choice questions each. On the writing subtest, examinees respond to 50 multiple choice questions and 2 writing prompts. Test items and writing prompts were reviewed for content and fairness by Washington educators prior to being included on the WEST-B. The PESB adopted passing scores for each WEST-B subtest following the first test administration.

The WEST-B was administered for the first time in August of 2002. September 2003 marked the end of the first full year of implementation of the WEST-B as a requirement specified in RCW 28A.410.220. During this past year the WEST-B has been given on six different dates at nine locations throughout the state.

## **WEST-B results for all examinees**

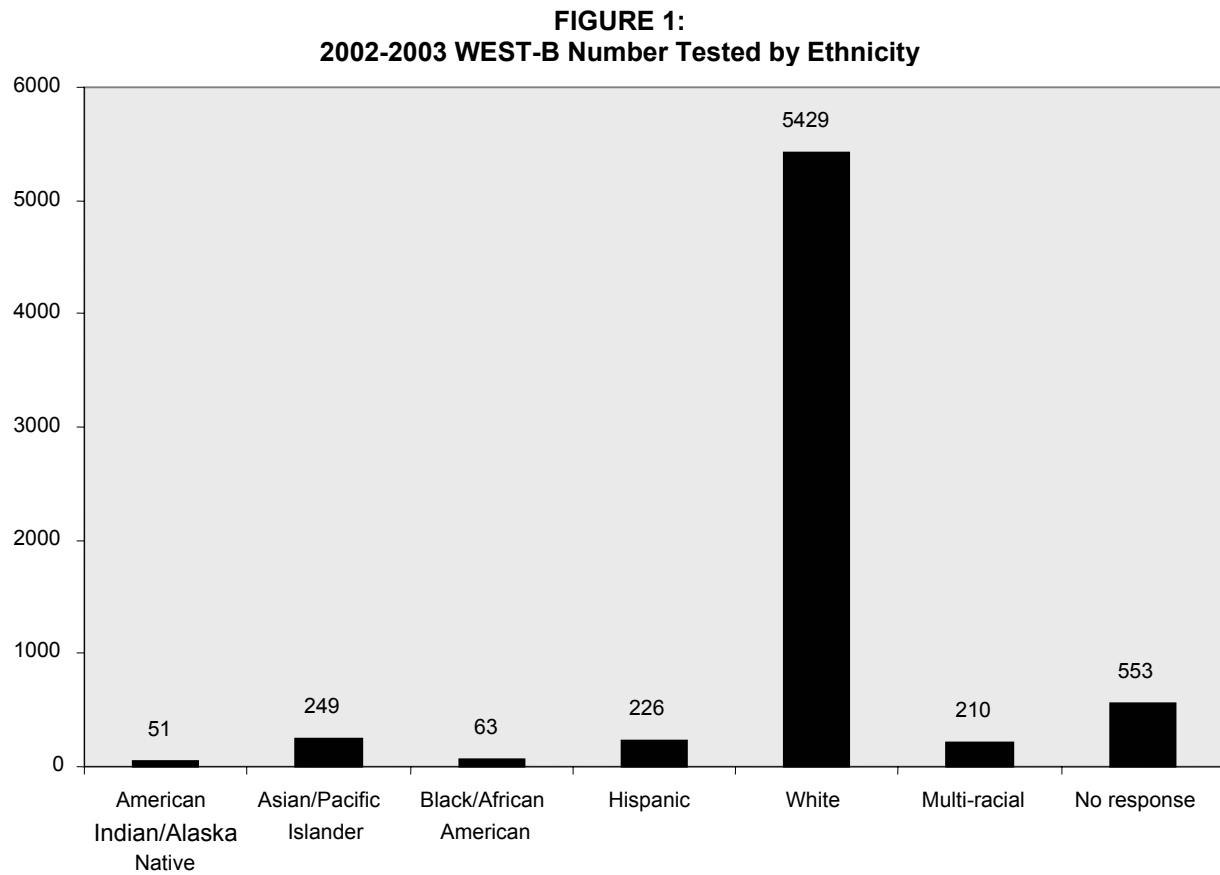
During the first year of administration, 6,781 prospective teachers were tested. Of that total 78.7% of the examinees passed all three subtests on the first try. The initial passing rates were higher for the individual subtests with 93.6% passing the reading subtest, 92.3% passing the mathematics subtest and 84.1% passing the writing subtest. Since examinees can retake WEST-B subtests, the cumulative passing rates are higher with 88.4% of the examinees passing all three subtests during this first year.

These results were also calculated for ethnic subgroups of examinees. Of the 6,781 total WEST-B examinees 5,429 identified themselves as White, 249 as Asian/ Pacific Islander, 226 as Hispanic, 63 as Black/African American, and 51 as American Indian/Alaska Native. Also, 210 examinees identified themselves as multi-racial and 553 provided no response as to their ethnicity. WEST-B passing rates for these groups should be viewed with caution. Because of the small number of examinees in many groups, these data may not provide reliable estimates of passing rates. Table 1 provides initial passing rates for all examinees taking the WEST-B during the first year along with the initial passing rates for examinees classified as members of ethnic groups.

**TABLE 1:  
2002-2003 Initial WEST –B Pass Rates by Ethnicity**

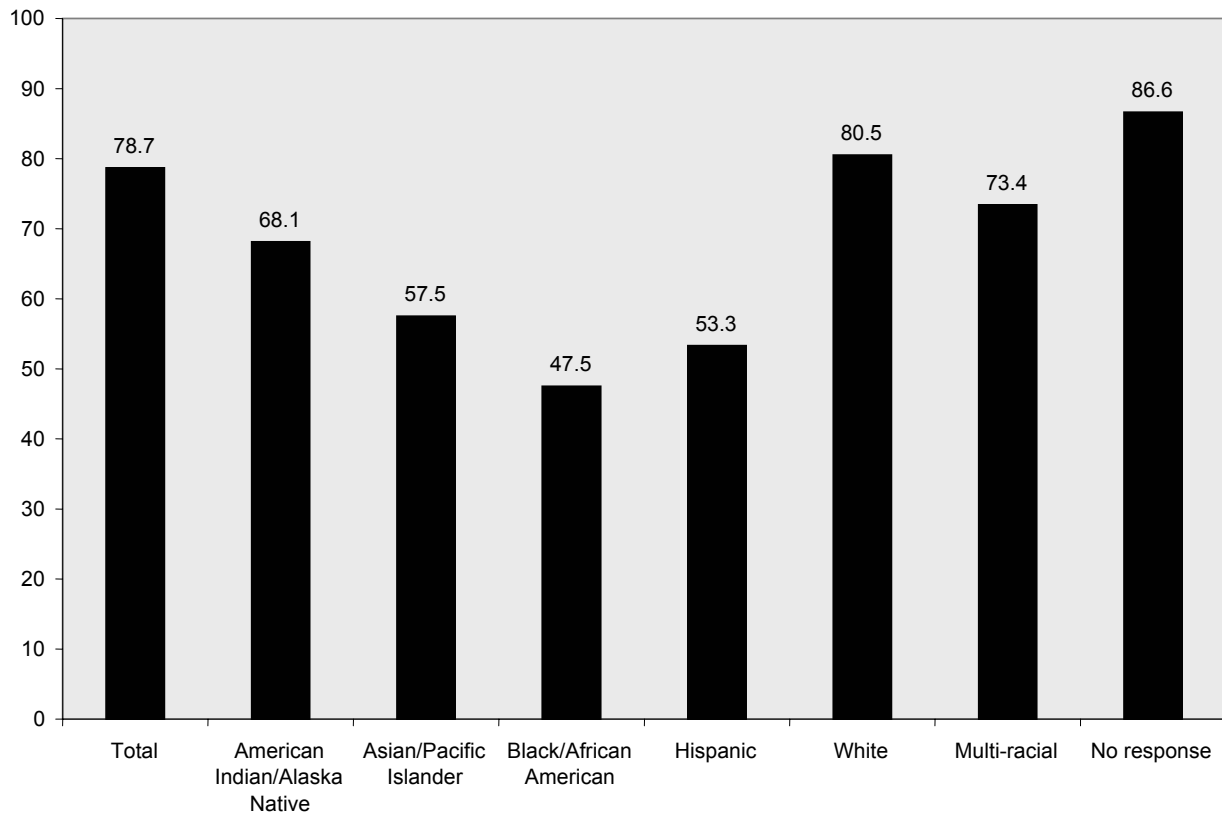
	<b>N Tested Any or All Subtests</b>	<b>N Tested All Subtests</b>	<b>% Pass</b>	<b>Reading (N)</b>	<b>% Pass</b>	<b>Math (N)</b>	<b>% Pass</b>	<b>Writing (N)</b>	<b>% Pass</b>
<b>Total</b>	6781	6490	78.7	6740	93.6	6715	92.3	6704	84.1
<b>American Indian/ Alaska Native</b>	51	47	68.1	50	92	49	87.8	48	79.2
<b>Asian/Pacific Islander</b>	249	228	57.5	240	87.1	246	89	239	61.5
<b>Black/African American</b>	63	61	47.5	63	85.7	63	79.4	63	54
<b>Hispanic</b>	226	212	53.3	224	79.5	224	78.6	224	58.9
<b>White</b>	5429	5202	80.5	5405	94.3	5376	93.1	5377	86.1
<b>Multi-racial</b>	210	203	73.4	207	92.8	209	90.4	207	80.2
<b>No response</b>	553	537	86.6	551	96.7	548	94.9	546	89.9

Figure 1 on page four displays the number of examinees for each ethnic group.



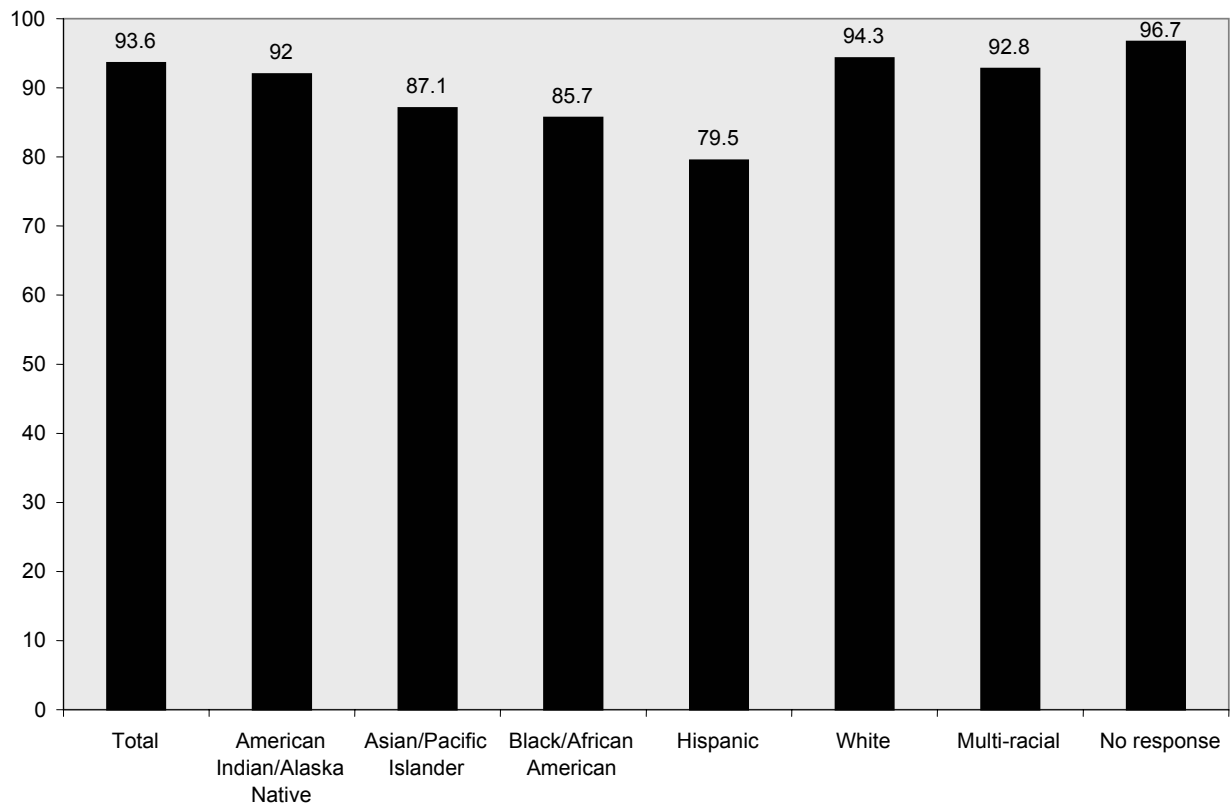
Examinees' initial passing rates for all three WEST-B subtests by each ethnic group are displayed in Figure 2.

**FIGURE 2:**  
**2002-2003 WEST-B Initial Pass Rates by Ethnicity -**  
**All three Subtests (Reading, Mathematics, Writing)**

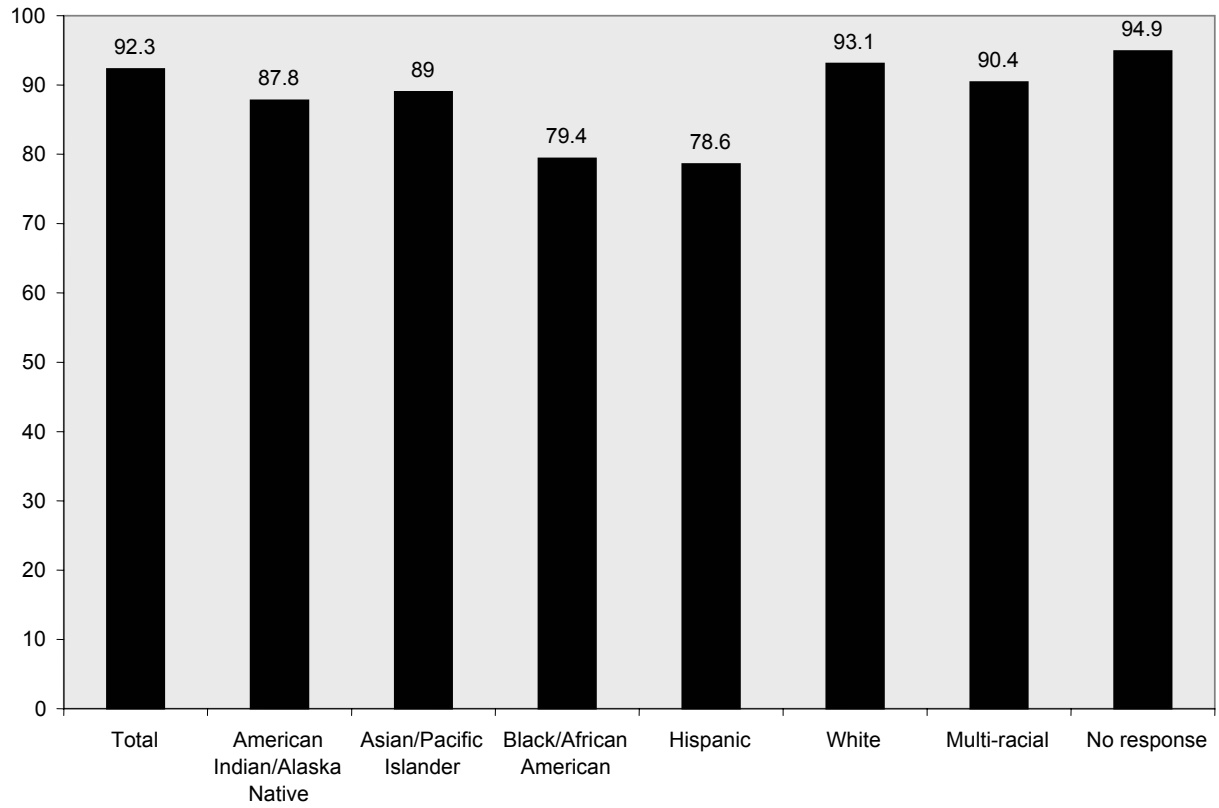


Figures 3-5 display the initial passing rates on each of the WEST-B subtests respectively for all examinees and each ethnic group.

**FIGURE 3:**  
**2002-2003 WEST-B Initial Pass Rates by Ethnicity - Reading**

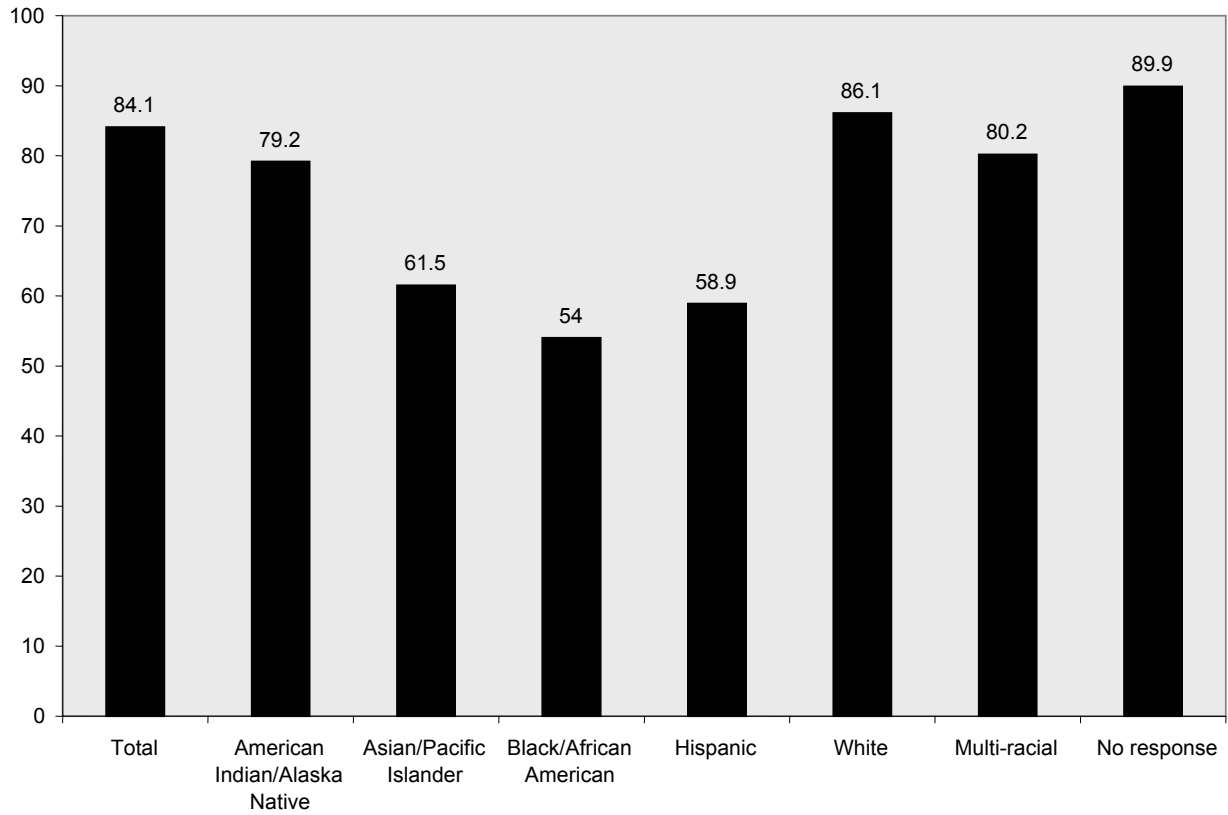


**FIGURE 4:**  
**2002-2003 WEST-B Initial Pass Rates by Ethnicity - Mathematics**





**FIGURE 5:**  
**2002-2003 WEST-B Initial Pass Rates by Ethnicity - Writing**



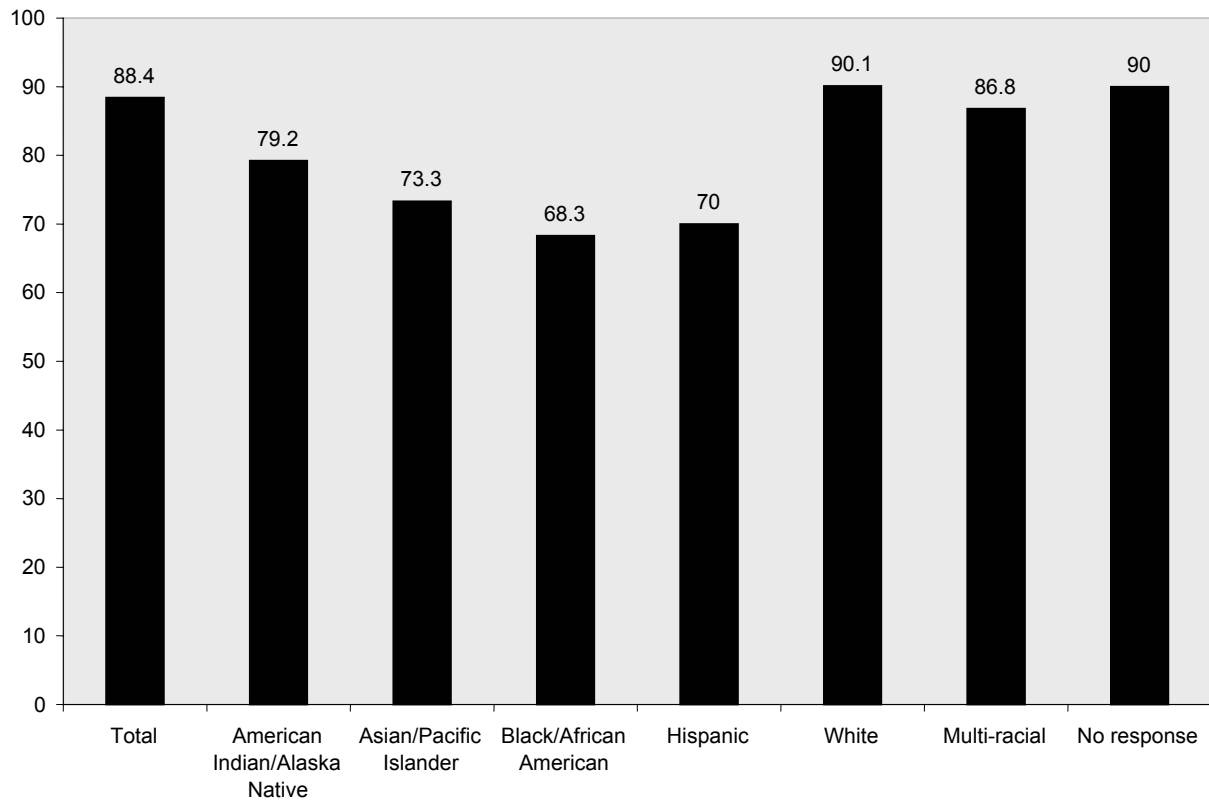
Cumulative passing rates along with numbers of examinees are provided in Table 2.

**TABLE 2:  
2002-2003 Cumulative Pass Rates by Ethnicity**

	N Tested Any or All Subtests	N Tested All Subtests	% Pass	Reading (N)	% Pass	Math (N)	% Pass	Writing (N)	% Pass
Total	6781	6632	88.4	6740	96.4	6715	95.1	6704	91.2
American Indian/Alaska Native	51	48	79.2	50	94	49	89.8	48	87.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	249	232	73.3	240	89.6	246	92.3	239	75.3
Black/African American	63	63	68.3	63	92.1	63	82.5	63	71.4
Hispanic	226	220	70	224	84.4	224	86.2	224	73.7
White	5429	5322	90.1	5405	97.2	5376	95.7	5377	92.8
Multi-racial	210	205	86.8	207	95.7	209	93.8	207	90.8
No response	553	542	90	551	97.5	548	95.6	546	92.7

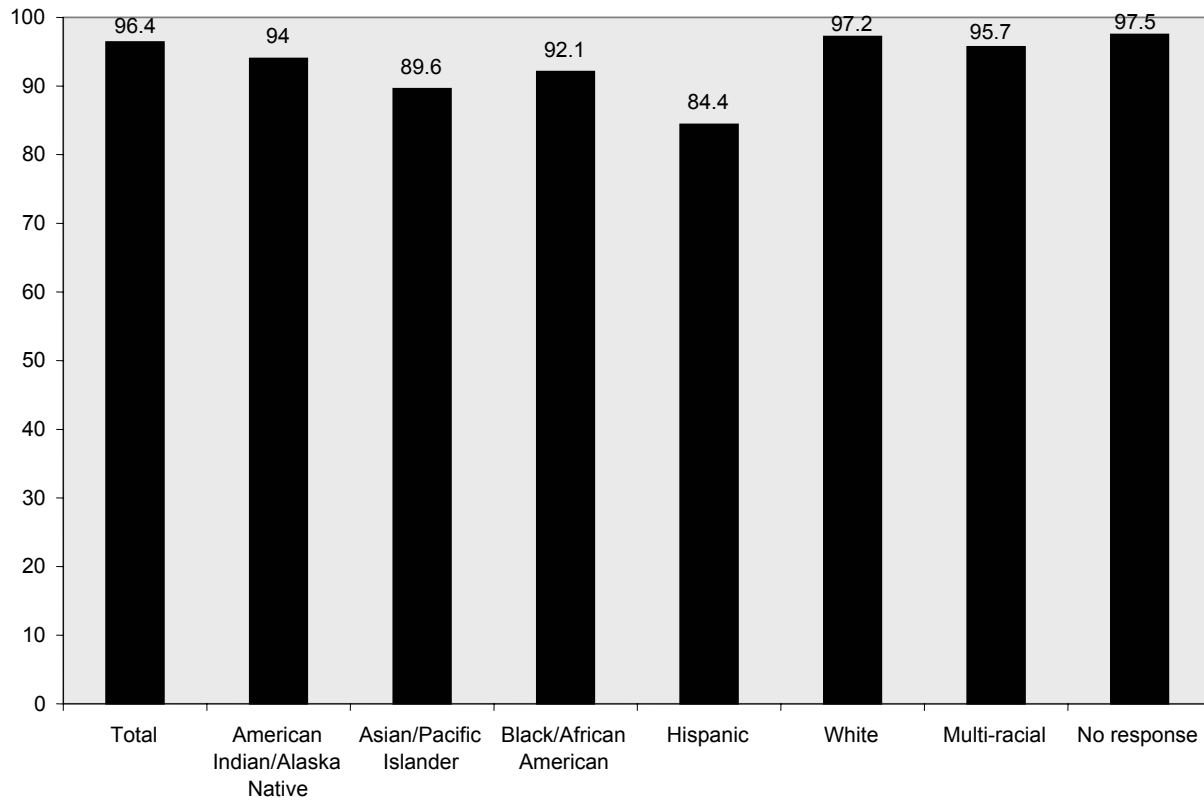
Figure 6 displays the cumulative passing rates for examinees passing all three of the WEST-B subtests by total examinees and ethnic group.

**FIGURE 6:**  
**2002-2003 WEST-B Cumulative Pass Rates by Ethnicity**  
**All Three Subtests (Reading, Mathematics, Writing)**

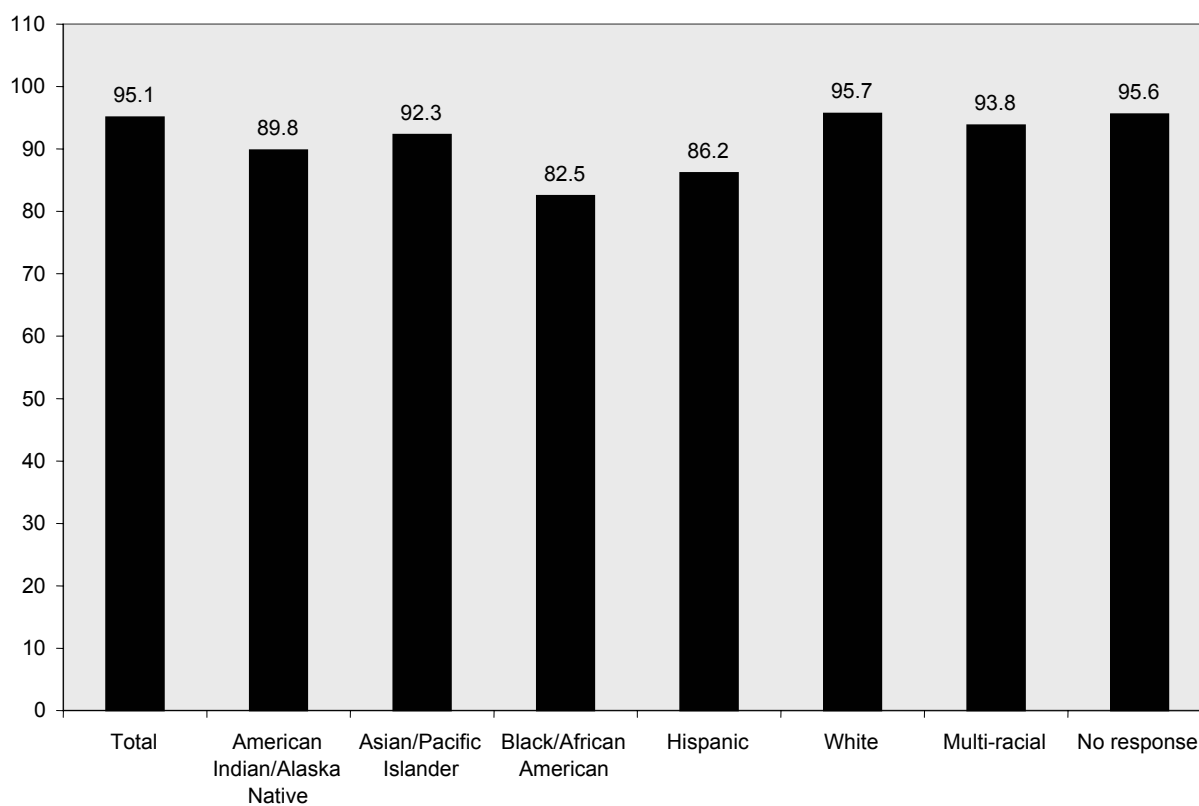


Figures 7-9 display the cumulative passing rates of all examinees and by ethnic group for each WEST-B subtest respectively.

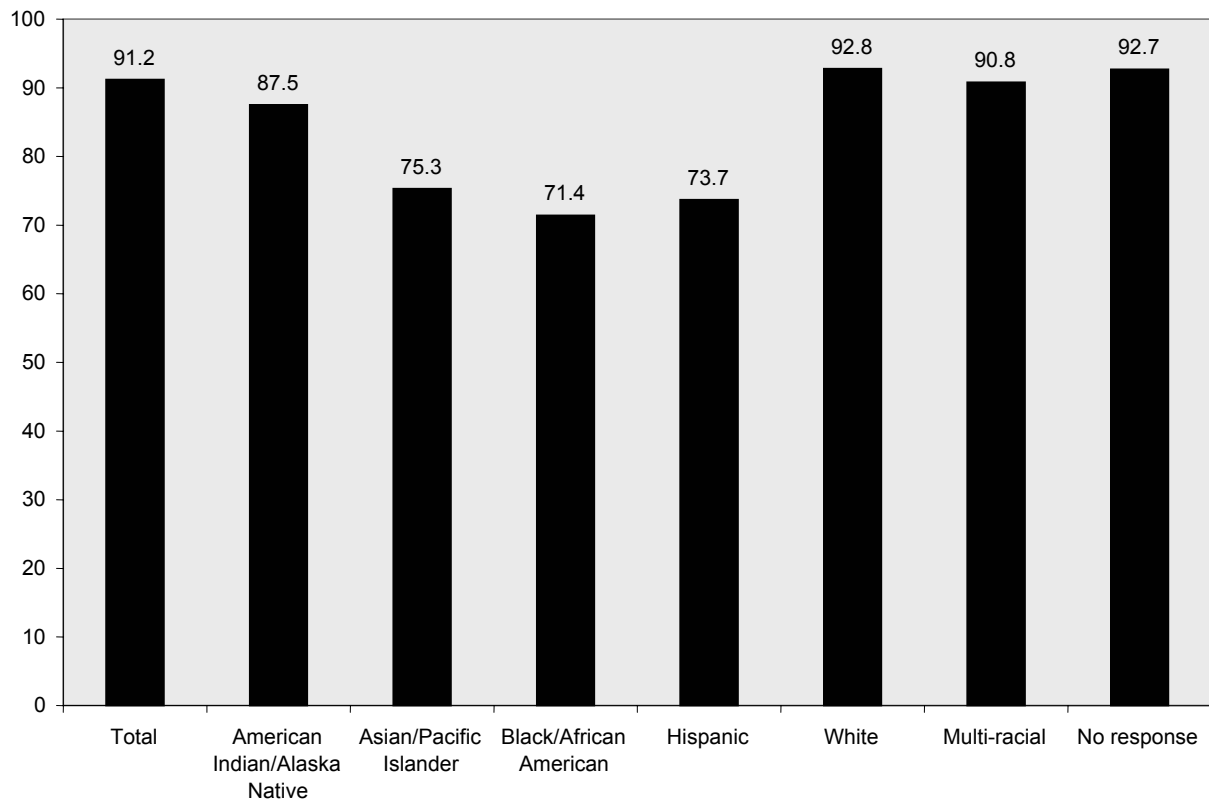
**FIGURE 7:  
2002-2003 WEST-B Cumulative Pass Rates by Ethnicity - Reading**



**FIGURE 8:**  
**2002-2003 WEST-B Cumulative Pass Rates by Ethnicity - Mathematics**



**FIGURE 9:**  
**2002-2003 WEST-B Cumulative Pass Rates by Ethnicity - Writing**



## Results by Teacher Preparation Program

The law specifies that the PESB implement the WEST-B as a requirement for admissions to state approved teacher preparation programs. Prior to the WEST-B, individual programs used other means and measures to ensure that candidates had basic skills. With the implementation of the WEST-B, all state approved programs now use a uniform measure of basic skills. The first year WEST-B results, including the mean score and range of scores of examinees by institution, are provided in Table 3.

**TABLE 3:**  
**2002-2003 WEST-B Scale Score Means and Range of Scores by**  
**Preparation Institution**

	Reading			Mathematics			Writing		
	Mean SS	Min	Max	Mean SS	Min	Max	Mean SS	Min	Max
<b>Preparation Institutions Statewide</b>	271.8	133	300	274.0	127	300	261.9	124	300
201 Antioch University (Seattle)	276.8	180	300	275.0	139	300	264.9	144	300
203 Central Washington University (Ellensburg)	265.6	133	300	268.6	139	300	254.7	144	300
207 City University (Bellevue)	272.6	152	300	272.6	187	300	262.1	144	300
213 Eastern Washington University (Cheney)	268.9	161	300	273.2	174	300	258.5	149	298
215 Gonzaga University (Spokane)	270.1	199	300	273.9	205	300	262.2	189	300
219 Heritage College (Toppenish)	266.6	183	300	267.2	189	300	254.3	165	292
224 Northwest College (Kirkland)	270.0	231	293	274.0	215	300	256.8	124	287
225 Pacific Lutheran University (Tacoma)	270.4	177	297	271.9	138	300	259.9	140	298
226 Pacific Oaks College (Seattle)	274.4	202	297	273.1	219	300	267.1	221	295
230 Seattle Pacific University (Seattle)	275.0	158	300	279.0	210	300	266.3	177	298
231 Seattle University (Seattle)	278.3	210	300	280.6	208	300	268.6	144	298
232 St. Martin's College (Lacey)	272.8	222	297	271.7	167	300	260.3	140	298
234 The Evergreen State College (Olympia)	275.3	208	300	273.9	148	300	264.7	189	298
235 University of Puget Sound (Tacoma)	275.5	231	300	277.5	217	300	266.4	191	300
236 University of Washington (Bothell)	275.1	192	300	276.3	189	300	265.0	161	298
237 University of Washington (Seattle)	277.3	180	300	280.7	142	300	267.8	144	300
238 University of Washington (Tacoma)	271.2	153	300	270.9	127	300	261.9	132	300
239 Walla Walla College (College Place)	263.1	190	300	269.1	207	300	256.7	164	292
240 Washington State University (Pullman)	269.0	152	300	273.5	161	300	259.0	140	295
248 Western Washington University (Bellingham)	273.3	177	300	275.8	152	300	263.1	156	300
252 Whitman College (Walla Walla)	267.2	220	294	270.6	227	293	256.5	219	279
253 Whitworth College (Spokane)	272.3	201	300	277.8	186	300	264.8	188	298
301 City University (ACP)*	272.8	177	300	272.0	142	300	260.7	147	298
302 Pacific Lutheran University (ACP)*	269.2	158	297	269.3	138	300	259.3	172	294
303 St. Martin's College (ACP)*	276.1	223	297	274.9	205	300	263.2	222	287
304 Seattle Pacific University (ACP)*	279.9	247	300	282.6	223	300	270.2	225	295
305 University of Washington (Seattle) (ACP)*	278.9	243	300	280.4	223	300	269.1	231	295
306 Western Washington University (ACP)*	273.9	160	300	276.3	191	300	265.2	188	298

\* Alternative Certification Program

The PESB and NES are developing procedures to assist teacher preparation programs in meeting their federal Title II requirements for reporting candidates' test results. Through this effort, the programs will be able to provide an accurate report of the WEST-B results of the candidates who attend their programs. The PESB will be able to include these data in future WEST-B reports.

### **Exemptions for the WEST-B**

The PESB is given authority to establish exemptions for the WEST-B under RCW 28A.410.220. Prior to implementing the WEST-B, the PESB established a policy that would prohibit exemptions to the WEST-B based on previous experience, education or test scores. At the same time, the PESB adopted a policy that would allow out-of-state candidates additional time to complete the WEST-B requirement. The PESB established WAC 181-01-001 making it possible for out-of-state candidates who have not passed the WEST-B to apply for a teaching permit. The teaching permit is good for six months and can be renewed for another six months. This policy provides additional time for out-of-state candidates to take the WEST-B.

The PESB is reviewing the current policy which allows no exemptions for the WEST-B. If this policy is changed, future WEST-B reports will include the numbers of exemptions and demographic data of candidates receiving WEST-B exemptions.

### **Washington Educator Skills Tests (WEST-E/Praxis II)**

RCW 28A.410.220 directs the PESB to implement subject knowledge tests to be required of candidates applying for teaching subject endorsements beginning September 1, 2005 and to be made available beginning September 2003. In 2002 the PESB selected the Educational Testing Service (ETS) to implement the Praxis II series of subject knowledge tests to fulfill this mandate.

Test administration of Praxis II tests, selected by the PESB for use in Washington, began in September of 2003 at seven testing centers across the state and will be administered on six dates during the year. Results from the first year of testing will be reported in the fall of 2004.

This past year the PESB has begun the process of setting passing scores prior to the full implementation of the endorsement subject knowledge testing requirement of 2005. During this coming year the PESB will consider policies and rules related to the implementation of the endorsement subject knowledge tests including exemptions to the Praxis II tests.

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